

Public Notice – Environmental Project

PURPOSE OF NOTICE:

The Department of Environmental Quality seeks public comment on the state's response to the environmental aspects of a proposed project in the City of Chesapeake, Virginia.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

March 12, 2013 to April 9, 2013

TYPE OF RESPONSE:

Federal Consistency Certification

DEQ is reviewing a proposed federal permitting action to determine if it is consistent with the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program (VCP) established pursuant to the U.S. Coastal Zone Management Act. The VCP seeks to protect the quality of air, water or other natural resources in Virginia's coastal area.

NAME OF AGENCY PROPOSING THE PROJECT:

DOD/U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Perdue Agribusiness, Inc. (Perdue) has submitted a Joint Permit Application to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) for the issuance of an individual permit pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act to increase dredge depths at its facility located 0.30 mile south of the Jordan Bridge on the Southern Branch of the Elizabeth River in the City of Chesapeake. Purdue is seeking a change in the dredge limits and depth as a result of the company having recently brokered a deal to import and export product on larger vessels than its facility can currently handle. The dredging would occur at two piers on site; the unloading pier and the loading pier. The unloading pier is located on the Southern Branch of the Elizabeth River and is used for vessels ranging in size from 300 feet to 500 feet with a draft of up to 36 feet. The loading pier is located on Jones Creek which runs perpendicular to the Southern Branch of the Elizabeth River and is primarily used to load vessels with a draft of up to 40 feet. Purdue is requesting an allowable dredge depth of 42 feet below mean low water with a 1 foot allowable over dredge at the unloading pier and an allowable dredge depth of 42 feet below mean low water with a 1 foot allowable over dredge at the loading pier. In addition, Purdue seeks a western dredge limit of 115 feet and a northern dredge limit of 250 feet from the face of the loading pier. A 2:1 slope or greater would need to be maintained between any adjacent shorelines and the edge of the dredge limits to ensure that the proposed dredging does not cause erosion of the shorelines. The dredge spoils will be removed from the river bottom and placed in a barge for transport to Craney Island's rehandling basin where it will later be moved upland by the Corps. Purdue has submitted a Federal Consistency Certification that finds the proposed project consistent with the enforceable policies of the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program.

HOW TO COMMENT:

DEQ accepts comments from the public by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments must include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ within the comment period. The public may review the project documents at DEQ's central office in Richmond.

CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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